

*D. A. Bottom*

No 20c

# GRANT MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY,

ATHENS, TENN.

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CHARTERED 1867.

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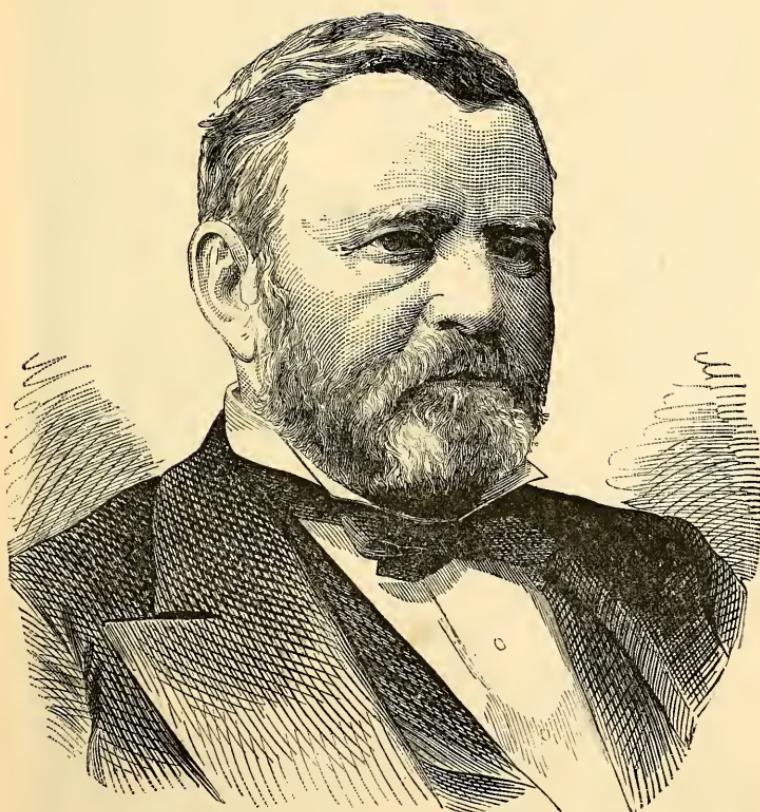
ITS HISTORY, AND THE COMMENDATIONS OF  
LEADING STATESMEN AND DIVINES.

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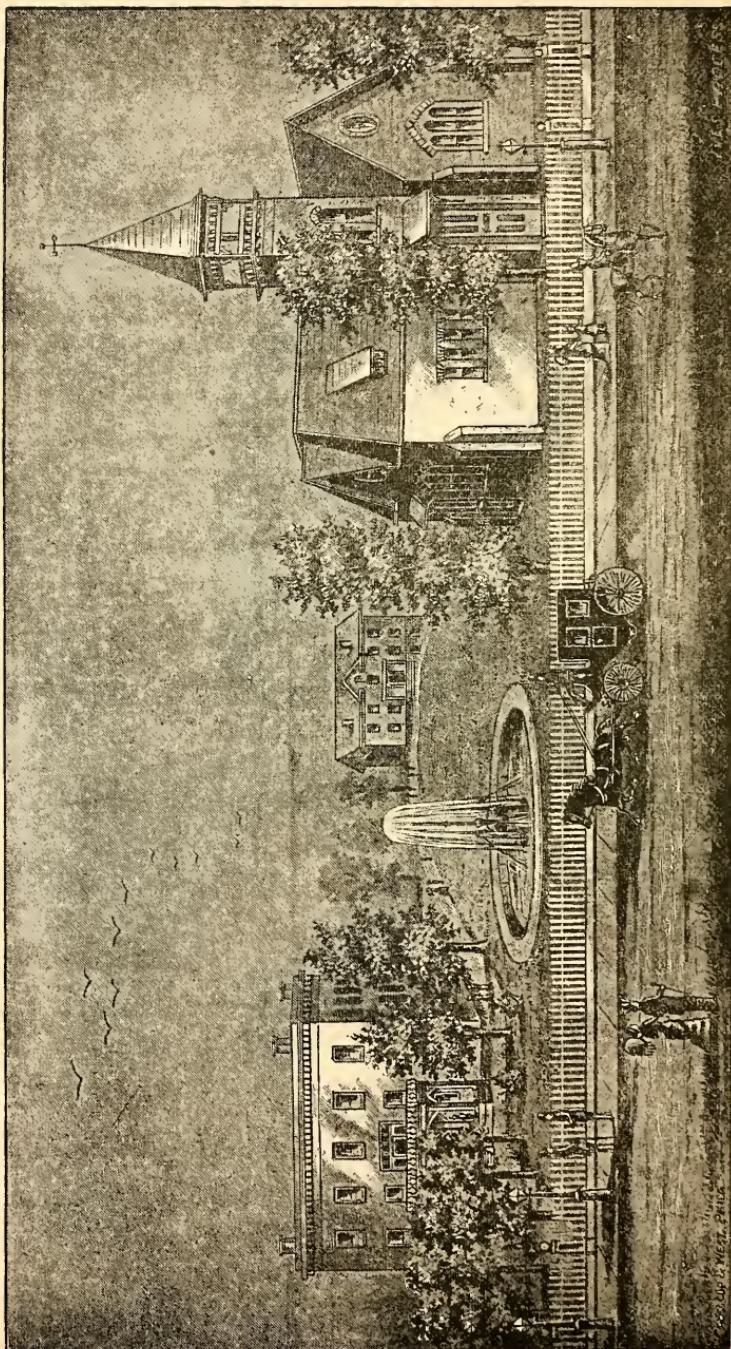
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# THE GRANT MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY.

## ITS HISTORY AND PRESENT STATUS.

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At the close of the war there was no institution in all the Central South that offered the higher forms of learning to the great mass of whites, known as the non-slave-holding or middle class, who had been loyal to the United States Government during the great conflict.

To meet this felt want, the institution now bearing the name of **GRANT MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY** was established; and in 1867 was chartered with full University powers by the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Tennessee. For the upbuilding of this school, amid the poverty and desolation made by the war, that quiet, modest, magnanimous man, General U. S. Grant, gave the first cash donation, his well-known signature appearing at the head of the list. Because of this fact, and because the friends of General Grant, the families of more than 75,000 Union soldiers in the Central South, desire to perpetuate his memory, this **LIVING MONUMENT TO HIS NAME** is being more fully and broadly established.

The property of this University consists of lands, buildings and other assets, valued at \$50,000. Five hundred acres of land near the University campus have been secured for the purpose of establishing an industrial school with three departments, viz.: **AGRICULTURE, CARPENTRY and MACHINERY.**

The Trustees, feeling the imperative need of such a school, are seeking to secure for each of these departments \$10,000, as an endowment fund, so that students living in the mountainous sections and of meager circumstances shall have placed within their reach, not only a literary training, but the opportunity of practical industry, and thus be enabled to go forth from the halls of the University skilled mechanics. Many of these students are the children of those who fell in the defense of the nation's life. They are poor, but this door of opportunity opens, and with glad hearts they will enter the industrial departments.

The location of the University is the very best. In the distance on either side mountains lift their majestic heads into the clouds, while their very bosoms are bursting with the richest of mineral treasures. These mountains and valleys are swept by health-supporting breezes, creating a climate unsurpassed on the continent for purity of atmosphere, richness of sunshine, fragrance of flowers, and mildness of temperature.

Athens, the seat of the University, is located on one of the great trunk railways from the North-east to the South-west, forty miles from the State line of Georgia, and thirty miles from the mountains of North Carolina.

During the past nineteen years many educated youths have gone forth from the halls of this institution, who have taken high rank in the South as leaders of society. Over three thousand students have been matriculated, and her alumni are found in almost every State of the Union, and also in foreign fields as missionaries.

More than fifty ministers and one thousand teachers have been trained within her halls. There is no institution in all the South that has done more in the past nineteen years for young people in moderate circumstances.

Grant Memorial University has an average annual enrollment of two hundred and fifty students, and a scholastic gymnasium of several seminaries, with an annual attendance of at least six hundred preparatory students. The possibilities of this institution cannot be overestimated.

No man more clearly than General Grant saw and appreciated the one supreme figure of the war—THE COMMON SOLDIER. No man after the conflict had ceased was more keenly alive, or better understood the interests and wants of the masses, and that a republican form of government can only abide with the intelligence of the common people.

In April, 1867, when the plans for the establishment of the University were presented to General Grant, he said: "I want to help the class of people for which the school is being established, for I believe a Christian education among the masses in the CENTRAL SOUTH is now a necessity."

We are now laboring to successfully build this living monument to the memory of this GREAT MAN—a monument in which there shall be no displacement of cap-stone or foundation, but

standing an intellectual and moral light-house to the nation, upon the heights of which GRANT's *exalted character shall be transfigured for ever.*

We close this brief statement by appealing to you in the name 750,000 WHITE men living South of Mason and Dixon's line that cannot read the ballots they cast, and on behalf of 3,000,000 more of WHITES in the same territory, over ten years of age, groping in the darkness of intellectual illiteracy.

If humanly possible, aid us in this great undertaking. Place at least to your name "one brick" in this living monument, and help to wreath it with your love of patriotism and Christian education. No other human instrumentality can do so much toward brushing away the bitter thoughts of the past, of harmonizing the discordant elements, and cementing into one great bond of fraternity this whole nation.

#### PERPETUAL SCHOLARSHIP.

The Board of Regents agree to give to any person donating \$1000 a beautiful certificate, acknowledging a perpetual scholarship in the institution in the name of the donor, the interest on that amount being sufficient to pay the tuition, incidentals and room-rent for one student annually.

All persons desiring to contribute to the upbuilding of this living monument to General Grant can do so at any time. Direct all gifts to the First National Bank of Athens, Tennessee, Treasurer, or to the President, John F. Spence, D. D., who will return suitable receipts or certificates.

All persons contributing one dollar or more will have their names and addresses placed in a large register, kept in the archives of the University for this purpose.

## COMMENDATIONS OF LEADING STATESMEN.

The following are extracts from addresses made at the celebration of the sixty-fourth anniversary of the birth of General Ulysses S. Grant, in Metropolitan Church, Washington, D. C., April 27, 1886.

### FROM THE ADDRESS OF SENATOR JOSEPH E. BROWN, OF GEORGIA.

\* \* \* \* On a beautiful eminence, in a picturesque valley in East Tennessee, an institution of learning, bearing the name of General Grant, has been established for the education of poor boys, and this celebration, as I understand it, is partly for the benefit of Grant University. I cordially approve the objects of the founders of this institution. I believe it is well and ably conducted, and trust it may accomplish great results in the future. I fully indorse the enterprise, and commend it to the favorable consideration, not only of those who have attended this celebration, but of a generous public. May it grow as the fame of the great man whose name it bears grew, until its character is known and its benefits felt by the whole American people.

### FROM THE ADDRESS OF SENATOR JOHN SHERMAN, OF OHIO.

\* \* \* \* What the new South wants now more than all else is education! education!! education!!! The statistics with which we have been made familiar recently in the debate in the Senate of illiteracy in the South, are appalling, but not much more so than was the condition of the Western States fifty years ago. The negroes being slaves were, of necessity, without education. The great mass of the white people were in the same condition, not because it was desired in the South, but because from the sparseness of the population and the existence of plantations instead of farms, it was difficult to establish a system of public schools. A change in this respect cannot be brought about suddenly; but it is apparent that every Southern State appreciates the importance of education of both white and black. It is the bounden duty of the National Government to extend the aid of its large resources. If the action of the Senate is sanctioned by the House, and fairly and justly executed by the people of the Southern States, there need be no danger from the ignorance of the next generation. I believe that these conditions will be the solution of the troubles of the South, and make a great step on the road to prosperity and union in the South.

(Applause.)

Now, but a few words in conclusion. It is not merely common school education in the South that is needed, but it is higher education. It is all the learning of the schools, all that science has taught, all that religion teaches, all that medicine has found in its alchemy, all the justice which the law points out and seeks to administer; the South wants opportunity for that higher education which cannot be obtained from common schools, but which exists in no country except where common schools abound. It wants in its midst the places where the active leading young men of the South can gather in colleges and universities, and there gain that higher education which prepares them to be leaders among men. ✓ I congratulate you, my countrymen, here in Washington, that, under the authority of the Methodist Episcopal Church, a Christian denomination, under the name of the illustrious hero General Grant, there has been founded in the mountains of Tennessee, away up among the clouds and in the pure air of heaven, in the midst of a loyal and patriotic population, an institution of learning which will be a blessing to all the people of the South, and I trust to all the people of the North. Every aid possible should be showered from the North and South alike. Let them light their fires at this modern Athens upon the mountain top and they will shine forth all over our land. ✓ Here the young men of the South will fit themselves to lead in the march of progress and improvement.) They will learn to vary their production, to develop their resources, to advance every race and generation in education, intelligence and patriotism, and with charity broad enough to secure all their people of every race and tribe the peaceful and unquestioned enjoyment of their civil and political rights.

**FROM THE ADDRESS OF SENATOR WM. M. EVARTS, OF NEW YORK.**

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:* It is with great pleasure that I take part in this birthday celebration of the illustrious soldier, statesman, general and President, whose recent loss we lament, whose perpetual fame we shall always desire to celebrate. And not less it gives me pleasure to have a share in bestowing proper encomiums upon this Grant Memorial University, and expressing for its future our well-wishes that attend it. It has been said by the wisest of men that a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches; and the framers of your new progressive establishment, your University, have displayed that wisdom when you have chosen the great and good name of Grant. (Applause.) It is better, if you cannot have both, than the great riches. But there is nothing to dissuade us, in the Scriptures, from hoping that, starting with a good name, we may also come, in our endowments, to great riches, and that we hope for in this new Grant Memorial University. \* \* \* \* \*

Now, for education, which Senator Sherman has so properly emphasized in three repetitions. Why is education this great matter in human affairs? Why, especially, is it of vital importance in this free nation, and this free and equal society upon which the greatness of our nation has been built? The wisest ancient philosopher, the one most quoted for wisdom in its application to our own time so remote from his own, Aristotle, said: "It is by education that I learn to do by choice what other men do from force." That, indeed, is the vital and central point for this immense population, this immense development of interest and intelligence: that we should do by choice what less favored nations must do through force. (Applause.)

But education, when it is to be applied to great masses of population, is not to end with the school children, nor with the college graduates. \* \* Education, indeed, means in the strict sense, developing the mind, forming the heart, opening the receptivities of nature. \* \* Thus we see that when we plan either in the philanthropy of George Peabody or in the wise name that has been given to this nascent great University, we are consulting for the welfare, not of the South nor of the North, but of the people of the whole country, by education in that portion of the land that needs most to be brought up in fair relations with the rest of the country. We may talk about an Old South and a New South, but the true prospect and hope is that there will be no South and no North. (Applause.) When of one heart and of one mind, and permeated equally in all parts by these great vital impulses that I have indicated, we have no South, no North, no East, no West, but one heart and one mind, the heart and mind of the American people. (Applause.)

And now, gentlemen and ladies, I have said that in the endowment of this University with the name of the illustrious Grant the University was fortunate. Let me say, also, that no monument more noble, more permanent, or more secure in the reverence of this people, could be chosen on which to inscribe the name of General Grant than this University to bear on its front this illustrious name. This name shall be written in many forms on marble and on brass, on arches and on mausoleums. But here this name shall be engraven on the fleshly tablets of the hearts of all the scholars of this University, and will be written in characters of living light all over the conduct and the careers, the names and the fame of all these educated men that shall issue from Grant University, as the impulse and the energy of their lives. (Applause.)

#### FROM THE ADDRESS OF EX-GOVERNOR JOHN D. LONG, OF MASS.

\* \* \* \* My fellow-citizens, if any poor word of mine can avail anything, I desire to utter it, not in eulogy of General Grant,

who needs none, but in aid of the Grant University of East Tennessee, which does need the helping hand and word of every one of us, and which honors the name it bears by the good work it is doing for the cause of education in the South. There is something in a new university, limited in its resources, devoted to the education of young men of scant means, plowing the first deep furrows in a virgin soil, that appeals to the heart with a very pathos, and that awakens an interest which our older seats of learning, venerable with age and fame, and rich in resources, can never arouse. When they tell me of a poor boy in Georgia or from the Tennessee hills, already well along in years, going day after day and week after week almost in actual want, living on little else than that divine fire of the scholar's ambition and the freeman's instinct of the possession of undeveloped and untrained intellectual power; when they tell me of that boy's sacrifices and self-denials, of his fulfilling his course in spite of all obstacles, of his eloquence flaming out on commencement-day, and of his later going forth into the communities of the new South to be a powerful element for good, for growth, and for the republic; when they multiply such an instance a hundred fold, aye, a thousand fold, aye, three thousand fold; when I see such men as this sent out by such a university in solid battalions to fight the battles of the whole country, its battles of truth, for happiness, for equal rights, for freedom, for humanity, for the settlement of the great social questions which to-day depend upon a diffused education of the people up to the idea of doing right by choice and not by force; when I see them fighting these battles for the preservation of our institutions all over the republic, without distinction of birth or color; when I see them thus solving all problems of race and of our social and democratic civilization, then am I reminded of the earlier and the heroic days of our elder colleges; I am reminded of the days when Harvard trained Sam Adams to blow the trumpet of independence; I am reminded of the days when Hiram and Williams equipped Garfield to fight and win the victories of the battle-field and the greater victories of the forum (applause); I am reminded of the days when Dartmouth sent out Webster, whose heart, the heart of a poor boy, had almost broken at his father's sacrifices to give him an education—sent out Webster to fix and confirm the foundations of the Constitution and the Union (applause); and remembering these things, knowing what such a college as this on the hills of East Tennessee means in that reclaimed section of our Union, knowing what it means for the republic, knowing what it means for humanity, knowing what in its influence it means for the future of my country, I say God bless it, and God put it into your hearts to help the Grant University of East Tennessee and give it means to do its great and needed work in the education of the South and thereby for the republic of which we are citizens. (Applause.)

FROM THE LETTER OF GEN. S. S. BURDETT, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF  
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 27, 1886.

*Hon. Morrison R. Waite, Chairman, etc.:*

DEAR SIR:—I find, to my very great regret, that I shall be unable to be present to-night at the meeting over which you are to preside, and which, called on the sixty-fourth anniversary of the birth of General Grant, is intended, whilst giving occasion for patriotic and affectionate revival of memories of him and of his great work for his country, has also the purpose to bring into notice and helpful sympathy the educational institution, which, planted in the South, has taken his loved name; and so in the fit place of your meeting proposes that this bestowal of a new name shall have the certificate of a public baptism. \* \* \*

Considered in the light only of a monument to his memory, the affixing of his name to a school of learning is a happy thought. Enduring memories are not such as in form of mere stone or brass run the race against all-destroying time. Beneficent purpose alone gives promise of those unfading qualities with which, for all time, we would endow the monuments reared to those we hold in chief honor. Mutilated images and nameless piles are found on all the plains and beside all the seas; there is no memory of those for whom they were reared; but, though the Alexandrian Library perished by the torch of the destroyer, Ptolemy Philadelphus lives to be named forever as its founder. A thousand names, great in achievement and in honors won, will have passed out of the shelter of our mother tongue whilst yet the founders and patrons for whom are called some of the colleges which constitute the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge are fresh of memory. In our own short history the diligence of search alone brings out of the shadows names which were great on yesterday; but Harvard and Yale are household words, and with Oberlin and Cornell, and now with Grant, will march with steady step in the array of things to be forever named. It will be a great work well done, if the fitness of this day's occasion shall help to broaden the foundations of education and liberty; and the Grand Army will not only rejoice in a work so wrought out, but all the more because done under a name which, to its membership, is an inspiration to patriotism, and seems a sure promise of the perpetuation of those institutions of liberty his valor and faithfulness so much helped to rescue from the ruin with which they were lately threatened.

Faithfully yours,

S. S. BURDETT,  
*Commander-in-Chief G. A. R.*

TESTIMONIALS  
FROM  
EMINENT STATESMEN AND DIVINES.

This movement meets with the hearty approval of our leading statesmen and divines, who comprehend the vast advantage of education in the South, as the following testimonials will show:

UNITED STATES SENATE, March 5, 1886.

*To whom it may concern :*

We have learned of the recent action of the Board of Regents of the East Tennessee Wesleyan University, in changing the name of that institution to the "Grant Memorial University," thus establishing a living and durable monument to the name of the greatest of American soldiers.

This institution has already accomplished a great work in training thousands of the youths of the *Central South* for usefulness and leadership among the masses.

*The importance of Grant University in the South cannot be overestimated.*

We give it our unqualified indorsement, and commend it to the favorable consideration of the friends of a liberal education.

The results that have already been accomplished, the number and character of those who have been educated for the various occupations of life, and the general favor with which the school is now regarded in its patronizing territory, should satisfy the most critical of its merits, and command the respect and *material aid* of all patriotic citizens.

JOHN SHERMAN,  
*President of the Senate.*

J. DON. CAMERON, U. S. S., Pa.	WM. M. EVARTS, U. S. S., N. Y.
HOWELL E. JACKSON, U. S. S., Tenn.	P. B. PLUMB, U. S. S., Kansas.
WARNER MILLER, U. S. S., N. Y.	H. M. TELLER, U. S. S., Colorado.
PHILETUS SAWYER, U. S. S., Wisconsin.	JOHN C. SPOONER, U. S. S., Wis.
WM. MAHONE, U. S. S., Va.	GEO. F. HOAR, U. S. S., Mass.
HENRY W. BLAIR, U. S. S., N. H.	JOHN J. INGALLS, U. S. S., Kan.
CHARLES F. MANDERSON, U. S. S., Neb.	JOSEPH E. BROWN, U. S. S., Ga.
NELSON W. ALDRICH, U. S. S., R. I.	FRANK HISCOCK, M. C., N. Y.
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E. B. TAYLOR, M. C., Ohio.	WM. D. KELLEY, M. C., Pa.
JAMES S. NEGLEY, M. C., Pa.	C. H. GROSVENOR, M. C., Ohio.

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From twenty years' intimate acquaintance with the institution now called Grant Memorial University, and the noble work it has done and is now doing for the masses of our people in the Central South, we unhesitatingly indorse the efforts now being made for its endowment by Rev. Dr. Spence, its honored president, and most cordially commend Grant University to every patriot and friend of education as worthy of material aid.

A. H. PETTIBONE, *M. C. 1st Dist. Tenn.*  
L. C. HOUK, *M. C. 2d Dist. Tenn.*

U. S. SENATE, WASHINGTON, D. C., February 27, 1886.

*To whom it may concern :*

I take great pleasure in commanding to your most favorable consideration the Grant Memorial University, located at Athens, Tennessee. It is intended to fairly endow this University, and in its present condition the friends of education will have to assist. I hope that all who feel that such a proper memorial to General Grant should be made a success will help, in so far as they may be able, to bring about this result.

Respectfully,

JOHN A. LOGAN.

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From REV. BISHOP ANDREWS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 11, 1886.

I am acquainted with the history and work of the institution at Athens, Tennessee, now known as the Grant University, and have personally visited it. For many years it has been doing a most valuable work for the education of the Central South, and under its new auspices may be confidently expected to enlarge its usefulness. I commend it most cordially to the good-will and liberality of those who know the incalculable importance of wise and faithful educational work in the South.

EDWARD G. ANDREWS.

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From REV. BISHOP MALLALIEU.

NEW ORLEANS, March 4, 1886.

DEAR DR. SPENCE:—For all its history (19 years) I have known the institution over which you preside. In all these years it has done a grand work. Its beneficent influence has spread all over the South. It deserves the sympathy and help of all patriotic and philanthropic people. In your efforts to increase its funds and facilities, I wish you the greatest possible success.

Ever yours,

WILLARD F. MALLALIEU.

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From REV. DR. NEWMAN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 22, 1886.

MY DEAR DR. SPENCE:—*Three reasons* inspire me to aid you what I can to endow the institution of learning whose presidency you so worthily fill: The honored name it bears, which appeals to all *American patriots*; the important mission it is destined to accomplish in behalf of Christian education; and the class of citizens it is certain to benefit in the South, whose intellectual elevation will contribute largely to the permanent union and prosperity of our country.

J. P. NEWMAN.

BUREAU OF EDUCATION, WASHINGTON, D. C., March, 2, 1886.

The movement which has resulted in the establishment of the University of East Tennessee, now known as Grant University, I have observed from the first. It has been well and wisely conducted, meeting successfully a special want of its constituents. The results already accomplished, the number and character of those who have there been educated for the various occupations of life, and the favor with which the University is now regarded by those in a wide region around, should satisfy the most critical of its merits. I take pleasure in commanding it most unreservedly to the friends of education.

Very respectfully,

JOHN EATON,  
*Commissioner.*

*To all whom it may concern:*

I take pleasure in commanding to your most favorable consideration Rev. Dr. Spence, President of Grant Memorial University, located at Athens, Tennessee, as a *true and worthy Christian gentleman*, who is devoting his life to the cause of Christian education among the whites of the Central South.

Respectfully,

ALVIN HAWKINS,  
*Ex-Governor of Tennessee.*

HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, }  
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 2, 1886. }

I have learned of the work and opportunities for usefulness of the Grant Memorial University, located in Athens, Tennessee, and believe that it is worthy the hearty sympathy and material aid of all patriotic citizens. The name under which it is henceforward to do its work, the faithfully loyal people among whom it is located, the influence for good and for country it will surely exercise, all seem to me to commend it to the comrades of *him* whose honored name it bears.

Very truly,

S. S. BURDETT,  
*Commander-in-Chief G. A. R.*

For further information, address

**President JNO. F. SPENCE,**  
**Athens, Tennessee.**





